HABITAT · PRESS

UNITED NATIONS CENTRE FOR HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

CHS/90/19
17 September 1990

THE BUILDING AND SOCIAL HOUSING FOUNDATION
WORLD HABITAT AWARDS

Costa Rica, Venezuela and Japan will be recipients of the World Habitat Award for 1990. This was announced by the Building and Social Housing Foundation (BSHF). The BSHF is a Housing Research and Education Institute based in Coalville, Leicestershire, England. It initiated this special award in 1985 as part of its contribution to the United Nations International Year of Shelter for the Homeless (IYSH) in 1987.

The Award, a silver trophy and 10,000 (Sterling), is for innovative and successful human settlements projects in developed and developing countries which provide practical solutions to problems of housing, infrastructure and services. One of the main criteria of these projects is their potential for republicability in other countries. The National Housing Programme of Costa Rica 1986-1990 initiated during President Oscar Arias Sanchez' four-year term will receive an award. The solution to the country's housing problems, a decision arrived at by the Government, was to construct 80,000 housing units, an ambitious plan given the economic situation of the country. Yet, four years later, through public, private and community partnership, the goal was achieved. President Arias Sanchez described the housing programme as "the most significant achievement of his government".

The National Housing Institute of Venezuela (INAVI) will be presented with an award for its enthusiastic efforts to provide homes for all by the Year 2000. The "Progressive Habitat" project includes provision of suitable land for housing the poor, infrastructure and community services.

The reconstruction of the City of Hiroshima and the Danbara Redevelopment Project (Japan) are winners of one of the awards. The first project is an elaborate reconstruction and upgrading exercise to rebuild Hiroshima which was destroyed by an atomic bomb in 1945. The aim was to create a "City of Rivers, Greenery and Culture" that will serve the cause of world peace. This is an excellent example of urban development, from acquiring and developing new land, to renovating and redeveloping existing neighbourhoods. The Danbara re-development project, was started in 1983 and is scheduled to be completed in 1995. This entails the construction of basic infrastructure, as well as recreational

facilities. Old sub-standard housing is being demolished to make way for new public housing.

The awards will be presented during a special ceremony by the Rt. Hon. Sir Geoffrey Howe, Q.C., M.P. Lord President of the Council, Leader of the House of Commons and Deputy Prime Minister, on Tuesday, 2 October 1990 at the British Academy of Film and Television Arts, London, England.

Mr. Peter Elderfield, Director of the Building and Social Housing Foundation, will be present. Dr. Arcot Ramachandran the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) will address the guests at the ceremony.

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